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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/666,000	09/17/2003	Hideki Zaitsu	16869G-087900US	6604
20350 TOWNSEND	7590 01/09/2007 AND TOWNSEND AND	EXAMINER		
TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER			KAPADIA, VARSHA A	
EIGHTH FLO SAN FRANCI	OR ISCO, CA 94111-3834		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2627	
SHORTENED STATUTOR	RY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVER	Y MODE
3 MONTHS 01/		01/09/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

		Application No.	Applicant(s)			
		10/666,000	ZAITSU, HIDEKI			
	Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit			
		Varsha A. Kapadia	2627			
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply						
A SH WHIC - Exter after - If NC - Failu Any	ORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPL' CHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING D nsions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.1 SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. It period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period or reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing and patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).	ATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION 36(a). In no event, however, may a reply be tim will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from a cause the application to become ABANDONEI	I. ely filed the mailing date of this communication. O (35 U.S.C. § 133).			
Status						
2a) <u></u> ☐	 Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>27 November 2006</u>. This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final. Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i>, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. 					
Dispositi	on of Claims					
5)⊠ 6)⊠ 7)□	Claim(s) 1,2,4-6,9 and 11-14 is/are pending in 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4-6 is/are withdrawn Claim(s) 9, 13-14 is/are allowed. Claim(s) 1,2,11 and 12 is/are rejected. Claim(s) is/are objected to. Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/o	from consideration.				
Application Papers						
10)	The specification is objected to by the Examine The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accomplicant may not request that any objection to the Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correct The oath or declaration is objected to by the Example 2.	epted or b) objected to by the Eddrawing(s) be held in abeyance. See ion is required if the drawing(s) is obj	37 CFR 1.85(a). ected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).			
Priority u	nder 35 U.S.C. § 119					
 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received. 						
Attachmen		_				
2) Notice 3) Inform	e of References Cited (PTO-892) e of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) nation Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) r No(s)/Mail Date	4) Interview Summary (Paper No(s)/Mail Da 5) Notice of Informal Pa 6) Other:	te			

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This office action is responsive to the amendment filed on November 27, 2006.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim12 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 12, recite that the write inhibit slice setting circuit sets write inhibit slice based on at least one of the information on a degree of proximity erasure by the head, and information on rewrite counts of the neighboring sectors as recited in the independent claim 11, or based on at least one of information on a write order of each sector. This limitation is in the alternative form and hence is much broader than the limitations recited in the independent claim 11. Therefore, claim 12 do not further limit the independent claim 11 and is indefinite.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-2 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nishida et al.

With regards to claims 1 and 11, Nishida et al discloses a magnetic read/write apparatus (see fig.1) comprising: a recording medium (see fig. 1 element 3 and disclosure thereof); a head

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for writing/reading data (See element 5 in fig. 1 and disclosure thereof); and a write inhibit slice setting device for setting write inhibit slice for each sector (position within the track) based on a recording state of each sector on the medium; wherein the write inhibit slice setting device sets the write inhibit slice for each sector based on at least one of information on a degree of proximity erasure by the head, and information on rewrite counts of the neighboring sectors (see paragraphs [0012] to [0015], [0018]-[0019] and [0054]; wherein amount of offtrack with respect to neighboring track is considered information regarding the degree of proximity erasure by the head as claimed).

With regards to claim 2, Nishida et al further specify that different write inhibit slice is set for each sector (see paragraphs [0012] to [0014] and [0054]).

With regards to claim 12, Nishida et al discloses that the write inhibit slice is set based on at least one of information on a write order of the each sector, position information on neighboring sectors...(see abstract).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 9, 13-14 are allowed.

Claims 9, 13-14 are allowable over the prior art of the record for the same reasons recited in the office action mailed on September 7, 2005 and August 24, 2006, respectively.

Response to Remarks

Applicant's arguments filed on November 27, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In response to applicant's argument that the reference to Nishida et al. fails to teach or suggest that the write inhibit slice is set based upon information regarding the degree of proximity erasure by the head, or information on the rewrite counts of neighboring sectors.

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Examiner respectfully disagree, because Nishida et al in the abstract and in the paragraphs [0012], [0014], [0018]-[0019], [0054] and in figs. 5a-5c disclose that the write inhibit slice is set based upon amount of offtrack; wherein amount of offtrack with respect to neighboring track is considered information regarding the degree of proximity erasure by the head as claimed. Rejection is therefore considered proper.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Varsha A. Kapadia whose telephone number is (571) 272-7557. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon Tue and Thurs. from 6:30 AM to 2:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrea Wellington can be reached on 571 272 4483. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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TAN DINH PRIMARY EXAMINER